

#160/D/mm

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**LOCARNINI et al**Atty. Ref.: **2551-28**Serial No. **09/306,420**Group: **1648**Filed: **May 6, 1999**Examiner: **Mosher, M.**For: **VIRAL VARIANTS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING  
SAME**

\* \* \* \* \*

**January 24, 2001**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231**VIA FACSIMILE 703-305-7401**

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT**

Supplemental to the Amendment filed November 13, 2000, entry and  
consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims as follows.

21. (Thrice Amended) A method according to claim 19 or 20 wherein the assay  
detects a mutation which results in at least one amino acid substitution selected from  
the group consisting of Ile509Val, Phe512Leu, Val519Leu, Pro523Leu, Leu526Met,  
Ile533Leu, Met550Val/Ile, Ser559Thr, Arg/Trp499Glu, Thr530Ser.

Add the following claims:

24. (new) A variant according to claim 23 wherein said DNA virus is hepatitis B  
virus (HBV).